

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-88 were originally presented for consideration in this application. Claims 6, 7, 12, 13, 19, 37-45, 58-69 and 80 are presently withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 6, 7, 12, 13, 37-45, 51, 58-69 and 76 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 8-11, 14-36, 46-50, 52-57, 70-75 and 77-88 are currently pending in this application.

The following rejections were set forth in the Office Action:

1. Claims 1-5, 8-11, 14-18, 20-36, 46-57, 70-79 and 81-88 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,776,636 to Cameron et al.

The claims presently being considered in the application are directed to an alleged species of the invention, an embodiment of which is depicted in FIGS. 1-6B. In this embodiment, a probe is inserted into a gravel packing assembly. The probe includes an optical line which is used to sense temperature within the gravel packing assembly.

Regarding the anticipation rejections, please note that the independent claims 1, 11, 32, 46 and 70 have been amended above to make it clear that a connection is made between the connectors downhole, with one of the connectors being operatively coupled to an optical line which senses temperature within a gravel packing assembly. The Cameron patent does not describe this feature of the invention, and so Cameron does

not anticipate independent claims 1, 11, 32, 46 or 70. Therefore, the examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 11, 32, 46, 70 and their dependents.

Regarding the independent claim 83, please note that this claim recites a step of monitoring a well parameter using a sensor operatively coupled to one of the fiber optic lines. The Cameron patent does not describe this step of the claimed method, and so Cameron does not anticipate independent claim 83. Therefore, the examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claim 83 and its dependents.

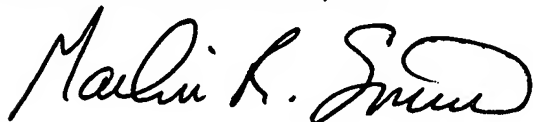
Due to the allowability of the claims discussed above, the examiner is respectfully requested to consider in this application the claims which were previously restricted out of this application and which are dependent from allowable claims.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all of the claims pending in this application are now seen to be in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance of claims 1-5, 8-11, 14-36, 46-50, 52-57, 70-75 and 77-88 is therefore earnestly solicited.

The examiner is hereby requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 516-0030 if such would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

KONNEKER & SMITH, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlin R. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marlin" being the most prominent part.

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